

KERPOOF LESSON PLAN

Visual Thesaurus



TOPIC

Vocabulary Development, Parts of Speech, Creative Writing

GRADES

3-5

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn about parts of speech and expand their vocabulary as they work together to create a Kerpoof Visual Thesaurus for the classroom. They will leverage new vocabulary and knowledge about the parts of speech to develop their writing skills, creating prompts for each other with Spell a Picture. This lesson can also be adapted for pre-determined vocabulary lists.

STANDARDS

McREL

- **S 1:** Employs general skills and strategies of the writing process
- **S 1.1:** Evaluates own and others' writing
- **S 1.4:** Writes narrative accounts
- **S 2, 2.1:** Uses descriptive and figurative language, including thesaurus for effective word choice
- **S 3,3.3-6:** Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions, including use of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs to convey different meanings
- **S 3.9-11:** Uses correct (age-appropriate) spelling, capitalization, and punctuation
- **S 5.3:** Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process, including using a variety of strategies to extend vocabulary, improve understanding of definitions, and compare and verify word meanings, shades of meaning, and word differences in context

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- Kerpoof Spell a Picture, Make a Picture, Make a Drawing and Make a Movie
- Student Handout/Vocabulary Key
- Thesaurus (book or online)
- Wall space on which to assemble a collage
- Visual Thesaurus headings
- Teacher-created vocabulary list
- Additional Resources

ACTIVITY 1: Parts of Speech

STEP 1: Begin the lesson with a little fun before you go into the parts of speech. Project Kerpoof's Spell a Picture and ask your students to shout out some words to type in. After you have a few nouns to work with (ex. "boy," "girl," "cat," "dog," "house," "ball," "tree"), try typing in verbs (like "jump," "chat" or "twirl") and even adjectives ("angry," "happy," "hungry"). There are some other fun Easter eggs in Spell a Picture, like "off" and "on."

Note

For tips on how to get the most out of Spell a Picture in the classroom, refer to this introductory lesson plan: http://www.kerpoof.com/edu/plans/Spell_a_Picture/Spell_a_Picture.pdf

STEP 2: Now use the words you have in the window to construct some simple, humorous sentences ("The farmer jumped over the crazy cow.") Use these sentences to guide students through the vocabulary, including all of the parts of speech in detail (use the Vocabulary list as a discussion script). Make sure students take note of important examples.

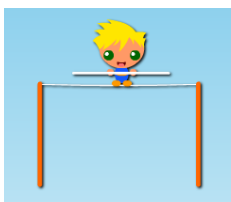
STEP 3: If applicable, do a KWL activity around the parts of speech. What do your students know already? What do they want to know? Investigate together. Change the Spell a Picture background (Why not try out the more advanced space scene?) and have your students challenge each other by coming up with more complex sentences to parse.

STEP 4: When your students have learned the basics of the parts of speech vocabulary, dive deeper into a discussion about parts of speech. Show them:

- That there are different kinds of objects. Prepositions can have objects, just like verbs. In the prepositional phrase, "after the dance," *dance* is the object of the preposition *after*.
- Parts of speech don't show what the word is, but how it is **used**. Some words can be both verbs and nouns, like "walk," "book," or "jail."
- Some words act like both verbs and adjectives at the same time (and sometimes nouns!) In the sentence "The man pushing the cart was sleepy," the word *pushing* describes *man*, like an adjective, and also describes action, like a verb. *Cart* is the object of that action. Challenge your students to think of a sentence in which *pushing* can act like a noun. [*"Pushing is difficult."*] **This type of special word is called a participle.** Have your students add a definition to their vocab sheets.
- Whole phrases can be subjects or objects of a sentence. In the sentences "Pushing the cart is difficult," and "Reading books expands the mind," both *Pushing the cart* and *Reading books* are subjects. Challenge your students to make phrases into objects. ["He started *reading the book*." "She tried *petting the snake*."]

ACTIVITY 2: Computer Lab

- STEP 1:** Now your students are ready to create their very own Visual Thesaurus. This activity will reinforce the lessons they've learned about parts of speech and challenge them to expand their vocabulary.
- STEP 2:** Start with the four "visual" parts of speech. Make headings (or print ours) for NOUNS, VERBS, ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS. Tack these categories up onto the collage space and inform students that they'll be filling in the Thesaurus from here.
- STEP 3:** You can either break your students into four groups, one for each part of speech, or you can assign each individual student a certain word quota for each part of speech. They'll be like detectives, scouring Kerpoof for new words! For each word that a student adds to the Visual Thesaurus, s/he should:
- Correctly identify its part of speech
 - Capture and print a visual representation of the word on Kerpoof
 - Provide as many synonyms and antonyms for the word as possible (but at least two synonyms and one antonym—if one exists)
 - Add the correctly spelled word and its synonyms/antonyms to the Visual Thesaurus
- STEP 4:** Encourage your students to use their brainpower to come up with synonyms and antonyms, but give them access to a thesaurus in case they get stuck. (OPTIONAL: Grab the new words your students get from the thesaurus and turn them into next week's vocabulary!)
- STEP 5:** The visual thesaurus should be taking shape. It will consist of a Kerpoof image surrounded by clouds of synonyms and antonyms. All words will be grouped by their part of speech. Admittedly, some parts of speech are harder to represent visually than others. For ad-verbs, encourage students to think outside the box. For instance, this tightrope walker in Spell a Picture could represent the adverb carefully. Its entry on the wall might look like this:



Carefully

prudently, cautiously, gingerly, attentively

carelessly, thoughtlessly

- STEP 6:** Encourage your students to get creative with what they post on the wall. Every entry doesn't have to look the same! Use screen capture or the save as jpeg icon in tandem with editing programs like Microsoft Word to create snappy entries. Alternatively, students can just use the print icon and cut out the picture they want, adding in artistically handwritten words.
- STEP 7:** Remember when we said prepositional phrases can act like subjects or objects? They can also be synonyms or antonyms. In the CAREFULLY example above, a student might have added with forethought to the list of synonyms or without

thinking to the list of antonyms.

- STEP 8:** OPTIONAL: Already have some vocabulary in mind? Use your own list to guide this exercise. Assign all of the nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs and let your students try to find them in Spell a Picture. Is there something we don't have? Make a Drawing can help!
- STEP 9:** For their Visual Thesaurus homework, assign students a creative writing exercise. At the end of the day, have each student print out one picture that they created with Spell a Picture. Assign partners and have students exchange their pictures. Have them use the pictures as prompts to write a short story.
- STEP 10:** When students have written their stories, have them switch with their partners again. For an extra homework assignment, have each student read through his/her partner's story and identify as many parts of speech as they can.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Online thesauri:

<http://www.kerpoof.com/#/activity/draw>

<http://www.thesaurus.com/>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

<http://freethesaurus.net/>

<http://www.visualthesaurus.com>

<http://education.yahoo.com/reference/thesaurus/>

Parts of speech on Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parts_of_speech

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noun>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verb>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participle>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interjection>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pronoun>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preposition>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adverb>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_conjunction

Other resources for parts of speech:

<http://www.writingcentre.uottawa.ca/hypergrammar/partsp.html>

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/definitions.htm> (cute poem!)

http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/parts-of-speech_1.htm (table)

Visual thesauri:

<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/cm/teachersatwork/1743/>

<http://itcboisestate.wordpress.com/2009/10/07/visual-thesaurus/>



VOCABULARY LIST

- **Parts of Speech:** Words are put into different categories based on their meaning and function in a sentence. These categories are called **parts of speech**.
- **Subject:** The subject of a sentence performs an action.
- **Object:** The object of a sentence receives the action of the subject.
- **Noun:** Nouns are naming words. A noun is usually a “person, place, thing, or idea.”
- **Verb:** Verbs are action words. They tell you what is happening in a sentence.
- **Adjective:** Adjectives are describing words. They affect the meaning of nouns by telling **which one, what kind of, how many, whose, or how much**.
- **Adverb:** Adverbs are kind of like adjectives. They are also describing words, but they describe verbs, adjectives, and even other adverbs!
- **Preposition:** Prepositions link nouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. They show relationships. Some examples of prepositions are *on, in, beneath, against, with, off, of, over, between, without, after, before, and since*.
- **Pronoun:** Pronouns are a special category of nouns that replace or substitute for other nouns. *I, you, she, who, this* and *what* are some examples of pronouns.

- **Conjunction:** Conjunctions are connecting words, like *and*, *but*, *or*, and *be-cause*. They connect words in a list, or phrases in a compound sentence.
- **Interjection:** Interjections are words or phrases that express emotion. *Ouch!* *Good grief!* *Indeed!* *Ugh!* *Oh!* and *Hey!* are examples of interjections.
- **Synonym:** A synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. *Joyful*, *elated*, and *glad* are all adjectives and synonyms of each other. *Cat* and *kitty* are nouns that are synonyms.
- **Antonym:** An antonym is a word opposite in meaning to another word. *Quickly* and *slowly* are adverbs that are antonyms of each other. Many words, like *cat*, do not have antonyms.
- **Thesaurus:** a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms

VISUAL THESAURUS

NAME _____ DATE _____

I am looking for:

- ___ NOUNS
- ___ VERBS
- ___ ADJECTIVES
- ___ ADVERBS



For each Visual Thesaurus entry, I will:

- ☐ Find or create a picture on Kerpoof

Remember, you can use any of Kerpoof's activities!

- ☐ Find at least 2 synonyms
- ☐ Find at least 1 antonym (if one exists)
- ☐ Make a post for the wall
- ☐ Add it to the Visual Thesaurus!



After I'm done posting my Visual Thesaurus entries, I will:

- ☐ Make a picture in Kerpoof Spell a Picture
- ☐ Print my Spell a Picture picture
- ☐ Exchange Spell a Picture pictures with my partner
- ☐ Write a short story about my partner's Spell a Picture picture



NOUNS

VERBS

ADJECTIVES

ADVERBS